



**Written testimony submitted to the Education Committee on S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut**

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Tyre, and I'm from Bridgeport, Connecticut. I'm asking you to support S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut because it will:

- Send millions of dollars to schools that serve Black, Brown, and low-income students.
- Make funding more equitable by reflecting the learning needs of English language learners and children in communities with concentrated poverty.
- Fund all public schools through a needs-based formula that includes magnets, charters, and vocational-technical schools without taking money away from traditional schools.
- Eliminate the phase-in and fully fund ECS. Under current law, a second grader will be in high school before they receive their full funding.

Right now, our state's education funding system is racist and classist. We spend more on educating affluent white children than low-income children and children of color. Then we spend even more to police, prosecute, and incarcerate those who are failed by our education system. I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live. It's infuriating to know that they place such advancements for white students rather than distributing that amount into schools heavily populated with students of color. Through tutoring local Bridgeport students, you see the eagerness to learn and understand a lesson plan, they just aren't provided the access to fulfill they're growing minds. These children are BEYOND capable of surpassing their expected potential, just disadvantaged due to poor school funding. What's missing in our schools are actual materials that are up to date & an amount of accessible learning options. Piling dozens of children into one classroom with limited school supplies automatically leads to children falling behind. We tend to have more children lose interest, focus and drive due to the fact school supplies are scarce. Attending a public high school and then coming to college showed how BEHIND I actually was. Where I was an A+ honor student, I was barely making C average in college. The pace that public schools are at don't reflect what college pace is, which can be detrimental to one's self esteem academically and socially.

Please vote "Yes" on S.B. 948 and support its passage in the General Assembly so that our state's budget reflects the values of justice and equity in education.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue.



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